

Fertile City Council Minutes May 13, 2024

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were Mayor Daniel Wilkens and Council members Mary Kiefert, Amanda Bosman, and Todd Wise. Staff present were City Administrator Lisa Liden, Deputy City Administrator Stacy Erickson, and Public Works Director Kevin Nephew. The audience included Prestin Douville of KRJB and Jess Riepe of The Fertile Journal and several community members.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkens at 7:00 p.m. and began with those present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved as presented on a motion by Council member Kiefert that was seconded by Council member Bosman and carried.

Mayor Wilkens invited the public to give a public comment, allowing for a five-minute period. Cheryll Reitmeier presented a petition to Mayor Wilkens and asked it to be acknowledged in the minutes as an official record. The petition stated: "We as residents of Fertile and surrounding communities, are concerned about the sale of Fair Meadow Nursing Home and Assisted Living and believe it should remain locally owned and managed. The citizens of Fertile should be allowed to vote about the future of Fair Meadow. April 2024". Mayor Wilkens acknowledged receipt of the petition. The petition contained signatures from Bejou, Gary, Fertile, Mentor, Erskine, Rindal, Winger, Halstad, Crookston, Moorhead, Twin Valley, Andover, Ada, Gentilly, as well as some from Wisconsin, Kansas, and North Dakota.

The minutes of the April 8, 2024 meeting were reviewed, and Council member Bosman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Council member Kiefert and was carried.

City Administrator Liden gave the Treasurer's report. There were \$99,564.04 in deposits, \$106,224.69 in disbursements with an ending balance in checking of \$295,717.35. Liden noted the out of the ordinary transactions. Council member Wise motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills. Council member Kiefert seconded. Motion carried.

Department reports were started with the airport having nothing to report. The City Engineers report was that the lead service line survey had been started and needed to be completed by June 1, 2024.

Public Works Director Kevin Nephew shared that there was work being done on the mowing around town. The maintenance department had been working with the engineer team to GPS the shut off valves around town. The new mower had not yet arrived. He then asked about the status of potential paving projects, noting that the Olmscheid and Peterson Additions and the City lot were all places that could be considered. Administrator Liden confirmed that there was no funding available for those projects at this time.

Administrator Liden gave her report and noted that she had wrapped up paperwork for FEMA from projects from 2019 and 2020. She continued work with the building projects at the Community Center and the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center. She had regular contact with Health Dimensions Group and with Cornerstone, both regarding the nursing home.

There was nothing to report for the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center.

The Fertile Fire Department reported that there were 15 calls. Of those calls, seven were for grass fires, three lift assists, two carbon monoxide detectors had alarmed, two false alarms and one structure fire. The raffle had been started.

Under old business, the food shelf transition was still in progress as the attorney had not yet completed the contract.

The Community Center project update was given, the contractors had most of the work done but there were parts that were still needed before completion could happen.

Under new business:

The Pay Application #5 for the Community Center project was presented for approval. The contractor requested payment of \$169,938.37 for the work completed to date. Council member Wise motioned to approve; Council member Kiefert seconded. Motion carried.

Administrator Liden addressed council to share that the bank had been reviewing files for various city and associated accounts, and asked for updated signatories for Pleasant Hill Cemetery and the Friends of the Library accounts. Liden noted that the Friends of the Library account was not a City account, but due to the physical location and proximity to available individuals, the library had asked Liden to be a signatory on that account. She also noted that the account generally has less than \$100 in it.

Liden's recommendation was that the Pleasant Hill account be approved to have the same signatories as other City accounts to include Mayor Wilkens, Administrator Liden and Deputy Administrator Stacy Erickson as the signers. For the Friends of the Library account, Liden recommended that Laura Gullickson and Stacy Erickson be listed as signatories. Council member Bosman motioned to approve the recommendations; Council member Wise seconded. Motion carried.

Car show planning was almost complete and Administrator Liden presented the information on the event and asked for sponsorship of \$750 and for approval of street closures as well as use of the City lot behind Encore and Thrifty White and Cannon Park.

Council member Wise motioned to approve the sponsorship and Council member Kiefert seconded. Motion carried. Council member Wise motioned to approve the street closures and use of the City properties as requested, Council member Bosman seconded. Motion carried.


Administrator Liden presented multiple requests for Polk County Fair in advance of their request. She asked for approval for a parade permit, a special event permit for the 5k walk/run, and for a temporary liquor license. Council member Kiefert made a motion to approve all requests and Council member Bosman seconded. Motion carried.


The Fire Department Charitable Gaming permits were presented for approval. The funds from said gaming are used for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining equipment and for any building repairs as well as donations of a portion of gaming funds for other local charitable needs. The permits for The Other Place, Side Street Bar and Grill, and Erickson's Smokehouse were approved on a motion from Council member Bosman that was seconded by Council member Kiefert. The motion was carried.

Under announcements, it was brought up that there were portable air conditioners that the City no longer needed due to the HVAC system replacement and the windows of the Community Center could not open to accommodate them even if needed. Two had been brought to the Nature Center for use. It was clarified that there was no need for them in the City Shop as that already had air conditioning for the office.

Council member Bosman motioned to approve the sale of the remaining units that could no longer be used by the City, Council member Wise seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Council member Wise at 7:38 pm.


Daniel Wilkens, Mayor


Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator